

CH-808

c. 1850

Hamilton Tobacco Barn

Bel Alton vic.

Private

The Hamilton Tobacco Barn is one of a handful of surviving mid-19th century tobacco barns in Charles County. During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. The Hamilton Tobacco Barn is situated on a 251 acre parcel in the vicinity of Bel Alton. The building includes many typical features found on 19th century tobacco barns including horizontal wood siding above the eave, wood louvered vents in the gables, a steeply pitched roof, and a number of sheds attached to the eave and gable elevations.

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1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hamilton Tobacco Barn

other

2. Location

street and number	9050 Northbridge Road	not for publication
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city, town	Bel Alton	vicinity
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county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Potomac Preservation Inc
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street and number	PO Box 452	telephone	unlisted
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city, town	Bel Alton	state	MD	zip code	20611-0452
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Planning • tax map and parcel: 64 p. 15

city, town	La Plata	liber	1137	folio	453
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ commerce/trade	1 ___ buildings
___ structure	___ both	___ defense	___ ___ sites
___ site		___ domestic	___ ___ structures
___ object		___ education	___ ___ objects
		___ funerary	1 ___ Total
		___ government	
		___ health care	
		___ industry	
		___ landscape	
		___ recreation/culture	
		___ religion	
		___ social	
		___ transportation	
		___ work in progress	
		___ unknown	
		___ vacant/not in use	
		___ other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Hamilton Tobacco Barn is situated near the treeline on a 251 acre parcel in the vicinity of Bel Alton. The building includes many typical features found on 19th century tobacco barns including horizontal wood siding above the eave, wood louvered vents in the gables, a steeply pitched roof, and a number of sheds attached to the eave and gable elevations. Requiring further study, the property was not available for survey and was photographed from a public right of way.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates circa 1850

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates circa 1850

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Hamilton Tobacco Barn is one of a handful of surviving mid-19th century tobacco barns in Charles County. During the 17th century, tobacco emerged as the staple crop throughout the region, promising to yield impressive profits that lured many adventurers to the Chesapeake Bay. Like other southern Maryland counties, the exclusive cultivation of tobacco governed the physical development of the county throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries. Unlike corn and wheat, tobacco cultivation did not encourage the development of significant urban centers for the shipping and processing of the crop. Instead, the county's landowners remained isolated, on individual farmsteads that comprised small "villages" made up of the main dwelling house, several slave quarters, and ancillary domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce. However, tobacco cultivation continued relatively unchanged until the last quarter of the 20th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 215

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 64, Parcel 15.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/1/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata MD

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Hamilton Tobacco Barn
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

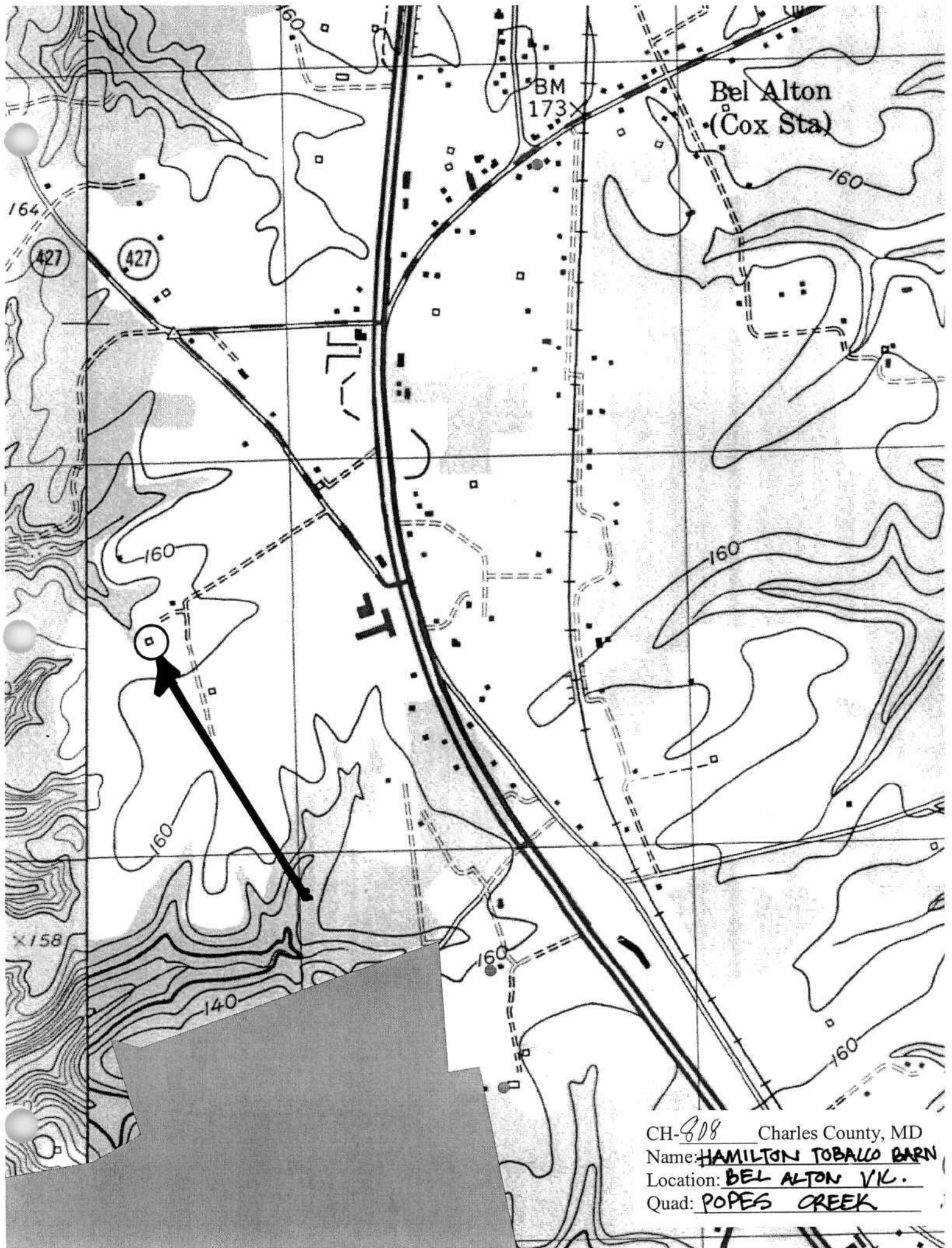
Lewis, J. Frank & Company. *The Maryland Directory*. 1880. Baltimore

Wasch, Diane Shaw. "The Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco in Maryland." Paper prepared for
the Office of Research, Survey and Registration, Maryland Historical Trust. On file at the
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, MD.

Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J.
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



CH-808 Charles County, MD
Name: HAMILTON TOBALLO BARN
Location: BEL ALTON VIL.
Quad: POPES CREEK



CH # 808

HAMILTON TOBACCO BARN

CHARLES CO, MD

1/2004

C. HARDY

LOOKING W

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